

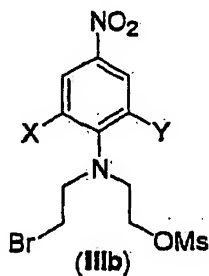
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2 (canceled).

3 (previously presented). 2-((2-Bromoethyl)-2-((2-hydroxyethyl)amino)carbonyl)-4,6-dinitroanilino)ethyl methanesulfonate.

4 (currently amended). A nitroaniline-based unsymmetrical mustard represented by formula (IIIb)



wherein

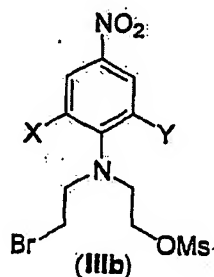
X represents one of the groups NO_2 , CN , or SO_2R^1 , where R^1 represents a C_{1-6} -alkyl optionally substituted with one or more hydroxy and/or one or more amino groups;

Y represents one of the groups OR^2 , NHCOR^2 , $\text{CONHR}^2\text{CO}_2\text{R}^3$,

CONHR²morpholide, CONHR² other than CONH₂, CONR²R³ other than CONH₂, CONHOR², CONHSO₂R², SO₂NH₂, SO₂NHR² or SO₂NR²R³ wherein each R² and R³ independently represent a H, C₁₋₆- alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkylene optionally substituted with one or more hydroxy and/or one or more amino groups; and A and B each independently represent halogen, OSO₂R⁴, OSO₂NH₂, OSO₂NHR⁴ or OSO₂NR⁴R⁵, wherein each R⁴ and R⁵ independently represent a C₁₋₆- alkyl optionally substituted with one or more hydroxy and/or one or more amino groups; and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives and salts thereof.

5-7 (canceled).

8 (currently amended). A method of preparing a nitroaniline-based unsymmetrical mustard represented by formula (IIIb) as claimed in claim 4



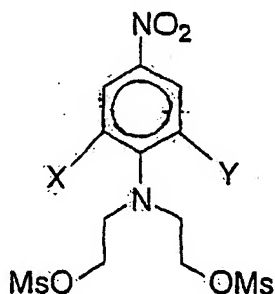
wherein

X represents one of the groups NO₂, CN, or SO₂R¹, where R¹ represents a C₁₋₆-

alkyl optionally substituted with one or more hydroxy and/or one or more amino groups;

Y represents one of the groups OR^2 , $NHCOR^2$, $CONHR^2CO_2R^3$, $CONHR^2$ morpholide, $CONHR^2$ other than $CONH_2$, $CONR^2R^3$ other than $CONH_2$, $CONHOR^2$, $CONHSO_2R^2$, SO_2NH_2 , SO_2NHR^2 or $SO_2NR^2R^3$ wherein each R^2 and R^3 independently represent a H, C_{1-6} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkylene optionally substituted with one or more hydroxy and/or one or more amino groups; and A and B each independently represent halogen, OSO_2R^4 , OSO_2NH_2 , OSO_2NHR^4 or $OSO_2NR^4R^5$, wherein each R^4 and R^5 independently represent a C_{1-6} -alkyl optionally substituted with one or more hydroxy and/or one or more amino groups; and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives and salts thereof;

the method comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula



with an amount of $LiBr$ in a polar solvent to give a bromo mesylate of formula (IIIb).

9 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, dimethylformamide, ethyl acetate, triethylamine, acetone and mixtures thereof.

10 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the alkali metal halide is selected from the group consisting of LiCl, LiBr, NaI and NaBr.

11 (previously presented). A compound of formula (IIIb) obtained by any one of the methods as claimed in claim 8.

12-15 (canceled).

16 (previously presented). A method of cell ablation therapy utilising at least one endogenous nitroreductase enzyme, the method comprising the step of administering a compound of Formula (IIIb) as claimed in claim 4 in a "therapeutically effective amount" to ablate tumour cells in tissue in a subject, wherein said tissue expresses at least one endogenous nitroreductase enzyme, to activate the compound of formula (IIIb) into an active metabolite to ablate the tumor cells.

17-18 (canceled).

19 (previously presented). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (IIIb) as defined in claim 4 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, adjuvant, carrier, buffer or stabiliser.

20-21(canceled).

22 (new). A nitroaniline-based unsymmetrical mustard as claimed in claim 4, wherein Y is CONHR_2 where R_2 is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkylene substituted with hydroxyl.

23(new). A nitroaniline-based unsymmetrical mustard as claimed in claim 4, wherein Y is $\text{CONHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$.